

VZCZCXYZ0001
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHPF #0654 1300935
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 100935Z MAY 07
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8409
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0157
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0002
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0412
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0289
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3158

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 000654

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STATE FOR EAP/MLS, OES/ETC--ROWENA WATSON, AND
OES/OMC--AMANDA JOHNSON-MILLER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [KSCA](#) [ETRD](#) [CB](#)

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN RESPONSE TO CITES DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 57912

¶1. On May 3, Poleconoff met with Mr. Suon Phalla of the National CITES Authority to discuss reftel demarche. He revealed that the UN Food and Agriculture Organization had queried the Cambodian government (RGC) about all of the marine proposals under consideration, but the MFA responded that it had no comments--a response he interpreted as meaning the RGC had no objection. He urged Poleconoff to speak directly with Mr. Ing Try, Deputy Director General of the Department of Fisheries at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, to clarify the RGC position about the proposals. Suon Phalla agreed to relay reftel points about the bobcat proposal to Uk Sokhonn, Director of the CITES Management Authority, who was out of the country and unable to meet with embassy staff. Suon Phalla also asked for US support for a Cambodian proposal to move a southeast Asian primate, slow loris, from Appendix I to Appendix II. On May 9, Suon Phalla informed Poleconoff that, under pressure from Japan, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) will lobby the ASEAN countries to oppose the two shark proposals listed in reftel.

¶2. On May 10, Poleconoff delivered reftel demarche points about marine species to Ing Try. He agreed with USG concerns over the fate of sawfish, and noted that sawfish were once prevalent in Cambodia but have now declined substantially. He concurred that sawfish should be listed on Appendix I or II, but said that his staff was still researching the issue to determine which appendix they thought was more a appropriate listing for the species. Ing Try stated that Cambodia would vote in favor of the pink and red coral proposals. Ing Try noted that his staff is still researching the issue of the spiny dogfish and porbeagle proposals and seemed unaware of the SEAFDEC decision.

MUSSOMELI